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HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS

Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'



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Navy Region Hawaii wins CNO environmental award

Bill Roome
Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) was one of three winners of the Chief of Naval Operations Award for Environmental Quality for a non-industrial installation for fiscal year 2001. The announcement was made in early February, and gave Pearl Harbor a "clean sweep" in the category - with Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate

Maintenance Facility winning one of three awards in the respective industrial installation category.

CNRH was recognized for accomplishments in consolidating Hawaii's Navy environmental staffs as the regionalization process began in Hawaii. Navy activities involved in the environmental staff regionalization process included Naval Station Pearl Harbor (which also encompasses the former Submarine Base), Fleet Industrial Supply

Center, Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor, Public Works Center Pearl Harbor, Naval Computer and Telecommunication Area Master Station Pacific, Pacific Missile Range Facility - Kauai, and the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point.

These, once independent staffs, had each worked closely with community organizations and local government on key environmental issues and implementing cost-savings programs.

According to Ralph Wakumoto,

division head of compliance with the CNRH Environmental Department, it was a real challenge consolidating six Navy activities under Navy Region Hawaii. He cited challenges such as bringing together staffs with different interpretations on regulations and policies, methods of compliance inspections, funding capabilities and management plans.

However, Wakumoto said that the consolidation has resulted in a much more efficient operation. He mentioned the decrease in

staff levels and the number of required environmental plans as examples.

"CNRH completed or is developing management plans to replace the existing plans held by the individual activities. This will reduce the number of plans we need to complete as well as reduce the number of plans that have to be updated," Wakumoto said.

To date, CNRH personnel have

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CNO, MCPON help raise ESWS pennant on USS Port Royal

Lt. j.g. Eric Grimes
USS Port Royal Public Affairs

Eight strokes of the bell rang out over the 1MC and carried across open ocean as the word was passed: "Naval Operations, arriving!" Flight deck sideboys snapped to attention and saluted crisply as the bosun's pipe sounded and the highest-ranking officer in the Navy disembarked his helicopter and entered the hangar of USS Port Royal (CG 73), on patrol in the North Arabian Sea with the John C. Stennis Battle Group.

On this sunny morning, in a scene reminiscent of the WW II surrender ceremony on the decks of USS Missouri (BB 63), all hands assembled on the ship's topside decks. Sailors in every direction were looking down in anticipation from the signal shack, crowding the 0-3 and 0-4 levels, standing beside the aft stack and even gathered in the ship's small boat. In one motion, they came to attention as Adm. Vern Clark, accompanied by Rear Adm. Barry Black (chief of chaplains) and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) James L. Herdt, stepped on deck. The only sound breaking the silence was the snapping of the holiday colors and ship's battle flag in the breeze.

The CNO visited many ships deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, but Port Royal, with Helicopter Detachment One of Kaneohe-based HSL-37 embarked, hosted the CNO's final visit before his return to the United States. In front of nearly 300 Sailors, the first order of the day was the awarding of the enlisted surface warfare specialist (ESWS) pin to six Sailors who had worked diligently in pursuit of this prestigious qualification. With the qualification of these new surface warriors, Port Royal also earned the right to hoist the silver ESWS Excellence Pennant, an honor accorded to ships in which all enlisted second class petty officers and senior E-5 and above qualify ESWS within 18 months. With the CNO and MCPON at his side, Information Systems Technician Seaman William A. Price, most junior of the six new ESWS qualifiers, raised the coveted ESWS pennant to the top of Port Royal's main mast to the cheers and applause of the crew.

The CNO then spoke to the crew, expressing his pride and sincere appreciation for their efforts in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, before introducing the

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Bloch Arena Fitness Center reopens



J02 Jim Williams photo

Bill McMann works out at the newly reopened Bloch Arena Fitness Center which was closed for one month for renovations that included expanding the workout space, installing new floors, and painting.

Seven mess management specialists reenlist

J03 Tim Walsh
Staff Writer

Seven mess management specialists reenlisted at the Silver Dolphin Bistro on the morning of Feb. 15.

The commanding officer, executive officer and command master of Naval Station Pearl Harbor were on hand to participate in the event.

Although the reenlisting officer was Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gerald Condon, Capt. R. Douglas Hughes, commanding officer of Naval Station, had the privilege to present the spouses of several of the reenlisting Sailors a letter of appreciation. He noted that the families of Sailors all across the Navy play an important, but too often unrecognized supporting role in the Navy.

Following the collective reading of the oath of enlistment, Cmdr. Robert 'Pete' Petry, gave the reenlisting Sailors coins and his appreciation for "staying Navy."

The reenlisting Sailors collectively earned more than \$68,700 in Selective Reenlistment Bonuses and seven (four and three) days of special liberty.

Capt. Hughes commented that although he was pleased to participate in the reenlistment ceremony, he will also greatly enjoy representing them when accepting the Nay Award that the mess management specialists worked towards achieving.

The reenlisting Sailors included MS2 M. Barthel, MS2 H. Edwards, MS3 R. Gutierrez, MS3 J. Kugler, MS2 (SW) A.D. Macahilas, MS3 C. Todman, and MS3 S. Tokas.



J03 Tim Walsh photo

Capt. R. Douglas Hughes, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor, hands out seven (four and three) day special liberty passes to reenlisting Sailors.

A NATION AT WAR



U.S. Navy photo

During a search and destroy mission in the Zhawar Kili area, SEALs found valuable intelligence information, including this Osama Bin Laden propaganda poster located in an al-Qaeda classroom.

Terrorist network hurt in many ways, remains a threat

Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

Coalition actions in Afghanistan and around the world have hurt the Al Qaeda terrorist network in many ways, but the organization remains a threat to America and its allies.

Al Qaeda was most severely hurt when the coalition forced them from Afghanistan, its safe haven. "That was the one place it could do basically all of the business it wanted to do in one safe, controlled spot," a defense official explained.

"(Al Qaeda) had freedom of action, freedom of training, freedom of movement, freedom to meet (in Afghanistan)."

The official spoke to Pentagon reporters on the condition of anonymity. He said it would be next to impossible for Al Qaeda members to set up a new centralized command and control element such as they had in Afghanistan. "They have not found a spot that would give them the same support as Afghanistan," he said.

Osama bin Laden set up his

terrorist organization in Afghanistan in 1996 and basically had free rein to run terrorist training camps and to direct global terrorist operations. Bin Laden hasn't been caught, but he and his key deputies have a harder job of directing Al Qaeda operations while they're on the run, the official said.

This will force Al Qaeda to spread out many of its key operations.

"We believe the leadership is going to be more decentralized, ... more of a franchise-type thing," the official said.

But bin Laden's propensity to plan ahead makes it harder for law enforcement and intelligence officials to get a handle on how dangerous Al Qaeda still is to the United States.

"Bin Laden basically always thought three steps ahead. He'd have plans in the works, multiple plans, not just one," the official said. "Some of those plans, we believe, are still out there."

Forcing the organization to decentralize may, in some ways, make it harder for law enforcement officers to foil Al Qaeda's

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